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APRIL 8, 2010  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PRESS RELEASE

### ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE PARTICIPATES IN FAIR HOUSING MONTH

(Baton Rouge, LA)—The month of April is recognized nationally as Fair Housing Month. People in communities across the country are encouraged to learn about their rights under the federal Fair Housing Act, which became law in April 1968. The Louisiana Attorney General's Office is charged with the responsibility of administering and enforcing the Louisiana Equal Housing Opportunity Act which protects individuals against housing discrimination. This Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability/handicap.

During Fair Housing Month, and throughout the year upon request, the Attorney General's Office will be providing training seminars to inform the public about Louisiana's Fair Housing Laws and the role of the Attorney General's Office in the enforcement and investigation of fair housing violations.

[More]

The Attorney General is pleased to announce that investigators Darrell Berry, Marilyn Leufroy and Michael Toussaint have recently received certificates for completing the five-week core curriculum at HUD's Federal Fair Housing Training Academy in Washington, D.C. The Academy is the only governmental institution in the United States that trains advocates, lawyers, investigators and other professionals in the prevention and elimination of housing discrimination.

The Attorney General's Office has produced a booklet entitled *Equal Housing: It's Your Right* which explains equal housing laws and the procedures available to persons who believe that they have been subjected to housing discrimination. For questions about Louisiana's fair housing laws or to request a copy of the booklet, please call the Attorney General's Fair Housing Hotline at **800-273-5718**.

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